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CLASS OF 1882
OF NEW YORK

1918

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MY

Old Suit of Clothes,

—AND—

Norfolk A-B ABS,

—BY—

"HEN."

"Nine tailors make a man."

NORFOLK, VA:
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1875.

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Price 10 cents.

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MY

Old Suit of Clothes,

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Thoughts Suggested

—BY MY—

OLD SUIT OF CLOTHES.

——†‡†——

HANGING in my wardrobe at home, amid a greater variety of articles than it is needful here to enumerate, consigned to oblivion, such as other once useful articles and persons find who have outlived their usefulness, may be observed all that remains of my once new and fashionable suit of clothes.

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To the casual observer, there is nothing entertaining or remarkable in their appearance,—they are merely *old clothes*:—and should the street bell-man come along to-day, I doubt not my careful housewife would bundle them off with other trash at "a penny a pound" without one remorseful pang. But to me, who have for so many months been ever in their society, enjoying their protection and the respect of the community which a wellclad man will usually receive, be his character what it may,—to me there is a feeling of sympathy and sadness as I stand before these shabby ruins of my former proud attire, and I would fain exclaim with the preacher, "All is vanity."

The dingy and faded garments, cast off like withered leaves of Autumn, to be whirled by adversity's cruel winds to their unknown resting-place, while yet they tarry and mutely appeal to the tender feelings

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of my nature shall find at least a ready listener, and one pen to set forth their praise.

How proudly we walked the earth together when these old clothes were new! And in all their early youthful days, how many were the joyous scenes we witnessed! Could they utter a voice, merrily would they speak of the evening parties

"Where youth and beauty meet
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet."

Of the sleigh ride with the jovial company by moonlight, of visits to the public lecture and the sanctuary, and perchance of the Sunday evening ramble in June, with her to whom were whispered the notes of bashful love.

Then would come tales of active business life and the busy round of daily cares, and later sad accounts of neglect, misuse and abuse, with final banishment to the

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dark quarters where we now find them.

Did you ever think what a large proportion of the care and trouble of this life comes from our wardrobe? If men could be content with a single, uniform style of cut and cloth, like for example the comfortable coats of the buffalo and grizzly bear, there would be an enormous amount of spare time, now wasted, which might be used to benefit the race.

It has been estimated by careful statisticians that time enough is thus wasted in a single year, in journeyings to and from the tailor, and to places where men go merely to exhibit their dress, to build a schoolhouse in every village in our land or a railroad to Australia: or if the material wasted in cutting to fit absurd fashions could be saved and sold, a sum would be realized, sufficient to place a copy of Dr. Watts' Moral Songs and Hymns in the hands of every heathenchild on the globe.

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"—a consummation most devoutly to be wished."

In view of these astonishing facts, how glad and thankful ought we as gentlemen readers to be, that we are not fashionable young ladies, and obliged to follow the last crazy orders from Paris. Imagine a grave and honorable "Amateur" posturing before his mirror in efforts to acquire the Grecian Bend! Or suppose he, and all of us, were obliged to consult the current editions of the Bazaar or Ladies' Book to know just how many square feet of panuier is the prevailing style, or how many yards of coat-tail it is desirable to have trail! Would we not in such a calamity be prepared to exclaim with the poet,

"I want to be an angel!"

Better than such a life is that of the toad or snake, whose most happy and felicitous method of ascertaining the latest

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fashion, we would perhaps do well to imitate.

But in considering this subject, we are led to further remark, that men who appear to best advantage on the street, also occupy no mean portion of the *Tailor's Ledger*. It is an axiom, 'that all men obtain their *first* suit *on credit*: how powerful is the hold of instinct and early associations upon the animal part of our nature through life, let the unpaid bills of starving tailors in every land attest.

Dr. Watts has written some pathetic reflections upon this whole subject, enjoining upon us the folly of pride in what the poor sheep and silkworm have worn before.

The old gentleman is undoubtedly right in the main, and yet it cannot be denied that if the aforesaid sheep and silkworm could behold the splendor with which their old clothes have been re-vamped through

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the nineteenth century, as set forth upon the person of a fashionable beau or belle, he would be utterly unable to recognize them, much less have the audacity to claim them as his own.

Finally, without pretending that this is all, or by any means the best, that might be written upon so profound a subject, there only remains to be said, that the writer's efforts to attain unto and invest himself with the "coming" suit, preclude the wisdom or possibility of his expatiating at greater length upon the suit departed; and, if what is already written fails to *suit*, his only apology is, that the present paper was not designed *to be* an entire *suit*, but simply *about* a *suit*.

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NORFOLK A-B ABS,

Just Captured.

—o—

[The following was written for the late *Virginia Gazette*, but as that has ceased to be, the publisher thinks it well to preserve so valuable a production, and gives it a place here.]

A is for Ads. in "this yer" Gazette—
B is for Buyers, thus doing, you'll get.

C is the Cash ; we all want a pile,

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D is our Dutchman—"Wie gehts all dhe vhile ?"

E for Exchanges, filled mostly with vapor,

F———Fifty cents, the terms of this paper.

G is the Good Times, that make our world funny,

H the HOME SAVINGS BANK, best place for money.

I is their Interest, six per cent. or more,

J is for Jordan's Confectionery Store,

K for his Kandies and1000 sweets more.

L is for Liquor, which makes trouble enough,

M———Men (?) and brothers! Why buy this vile stuff ?

N is for NORFOLK, fair "City by the Sea,"

O is its Opportunity which Outsiders can see.

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P is for Progress, expected by some,
Q is for Query ; How soon will it come ?

R 's for our Rum-mills, 200 or more,
S for poor Sots who lounge at their door.

T is for TOMPKINS, the Number One Grocer,
U can suit U'reself there as I very well know, Sir.

V is Virginia, yclept Old Dominion,
W our Water Works, good 'nuff's our opinion.

X is for X-10-sive,—the place will be yet,
Y is YOUR SERVANTS, who run the Ga-

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(& you pay in advance, if you get it—*you bet.*)

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